Message Text

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SUBJECT: MILDLY ENCOURAGING JUNE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INCREASE AND DISAPPOINTING NEW ORDER DATA

REF: BONN 11125

1. THE SEASONAL ADJUSTED INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ROSE BY 2 PERCENTAGE POINTS TO 114 IN JUNE. THERE WERE NO CORRECTIONS IN PREVIOUS MONTHS DATA, BUT THESE, TOO, REMAIN AS "PRELIMINARY" IN THE STATISTIC. WHILE THE JUNE RISE GIVES SOME ENCOURAGEMENT, THE TWO-MONTH COMPARISON USUALLY FAVORED BY THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES STILL INDICATES A 1.8 PERCENTAGE DROP DURING THE MAY/JUNE AS COMPARED TO THE MARCH/APRIL PERIOD. FOR THE SECOND QUARTER, AS A WHOLE, SEASONAL ADJUSTED UNCLASSIFIED

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INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AVERAGED 1.7 PERCENT BELOW THE FIRST QUARTER, THUS MAKING IT MOST LIKELY THAT GNP ALSO DROPPED (BUT BY A LESSER PERCENTAGE) DURING THE SECOND QUARTER.

2. THE JUNE INCREASE IN THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX WAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT ALL OF ITS MAJOR COMPONENT

PARTS. THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED BY THE FOOD INDUSTRY (4.4 PERCENT) AND BY MINING (4.0 PERCENT). MINING, HOWEVER, NEVERTHELESS REMAINED ABOUT 12 PERCENT BELOW ITS FIRST QUARTER AVERAGE. THE INDEX FOR THE INVESTMENT GOODS INDUSTRY ROSE BY ONLY 0.9 PERCENT, AS DID BASIC PRODUCTS AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS.

- 3. NEW ORDER DATA FOR JUNE WAS DISAPPOINTING. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED VOLUME DATA WHICH WE NORMALLY REPORT IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. FOR A SHORT-TERM COMPARISON PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN THE VALUE DATA, HOWEVER, TEND TO BE OF ALMOST THE SAME MAGNITUDE. ON A VALUE BASIS, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ORDER INDEX FOR MAY WAS CORRECTED UPWARD BY 1.3 PERCENT AND THE JUNE INDEX DROPPED BACK BY 1.3 PERCENT FROM THE NEW MAY LEVEL. ALL OF THE JUNE DROP TOOK PLACE IN ORDERS FROM ABROAD WHICH DROPPED BACK 5.9 PERCENT FROM THEIR MAY LEVEL WHICH ITSELF WAS CORRECTED UPWARD BY 2 PERCENT FROM PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FIGURES. DOMESTIC ORDERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASED BY 1.5 PERCENT OVER THEIR MAY LEVEL (WHICH WAS NOT CORRECTED).
- 4. THE JUNE DROP IN FOREIGN ORDERS TOOK PLACE IN BOTH BASIC AND INVESTMENT GOODS INDUSTRIES, WHILE CONSUMER GOODS MAINTAINED THEIR DOWNWARD (CORRECTED) MAY LEVEL. UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE, THE JUNE INCREASE IN ORDERS WAS SPREAD FAIRLY UNIFORMLY OVER ALL SECTORS BROKEN OUT IN THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED STATISTICS.

5. DESPITE THE UPWARD CORRECTION OF MAY ORDER DATA, A TWO-MONTH COMPARISON CONTINUES TO BE MORE UNFAVORABLE THAN THE ONE-MONTH ONE WITH THE VALUE OF TOTAL ORDERS DURING THE MAY/JUNE PERIOD 2.3 PERCENT BELOW THAT DURING MARCH/APRIL. THE TWO-MONTH COMPARISON, HOWEVER, DOES MODERATE THE DROP IN ORDERS FROM ABROAD TO 3.2 PERCENT AT THE EXPENSE OF DOMESTIC ORDERS WHICH IN VALUE TERMS DECREASED BY 1.8 PERCENT DURING THE MAY/JUNE PERIOD. STOESSEL

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